Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-35 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 10, 18, 24, 30, and 34 being the independent claims. Claims 3, 22, and 30 were amended to correct minor errors. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

The specification was amended to update the application number and filing date of a related patent application. The specification was also amended to correct minor informalities and also to correct or add figure element numbers as found in the originally-filed drawings. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action states on page 2 that all pending claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,115,500 to Larsen *et al.* (hereinafter, "Larsen") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,802,119 to Heene *et al.* (hereinafter, "Heene"). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse this rejection.

The Office action states that Larsen teaches the invention substantially as claimed, with the exception of "a plurality of boundary address registers for storing boundary addresses." (*See* Office Action, page 1, paragraph 5.) On page 2, the Office Action states

that Heene "disclosed a system containing a plurality of boundary address registers for sensing and enabling an alternate operating mode upon use of an address within the range of one of the boundary address registers (fig. 4, col. 6 line 46 to col. 7 line 42)." (*See* Office Action, page 2, paragraph 5.) The Office Action goes on to state that "[i]t would have been obvious . . . to have combined Heene et al.'s plural boundary address register system with Larsen et al.'s system. . ." (*See id.*) Applicants respectfully traverse this argument.

Heene does not teach or suggest "a plurality of boundary address registers for storing boundary addresses that partition the address space into a plurality of address ranges corresponding to the plurality of ISA decoding modes," as required by claim 1. Heene's PABL1, PABL2, PABL3, and PABL4 registers each contain an address, starting at which a replacement patch block of memory of a definite size is to be used. The presently claimed invention has nothing to do with replacement of memory. In addition, Heene's PABL1, PABL2, PABL3, and PABL4 registers "would not be included in the normal memory map of the MCU, but would appear only when the MCU is in special boot or special test mode" (*see* Heene, col. 5, lines 44-47). Thus, the combination of Larsen and Heene would result in a system in which the address registers would, upon a special boot or test mode, mark the start of a replacement block of memory of a definite size. This is very different from "a plurality of boundary address registers for storing boundary addresses that partition the address space into a plurality of address ranges corresponding to the plurality of ISA decoding modes," as recited in claim 1, which are not limited to usage during a special boot or test mode, and which are not limited to a particular range size. Therefore, modifying Larsen by utilizing Heene's PABL1, PABL2, PABL3, and PABL4 registers does not result in the present invention. Hence, the subject matter as a whole would not have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains, as would otherwise be required for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Independent claims 10, 18, 24, 30, and 34 all contain a claim element similar to the element quoted above from claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections against these claims (and their dependents) for similar reasons.

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicants believe that independent claims 1, 10, 18, 24, 30, and 34, and all claims depending therefrom, are patentable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Request for Consideration of Previously-Filed Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

It appears from our records that the Form PTO-1449 that was submitted with the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 31, 2001, was not returned with the Office Action. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 31, 2001, be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed Form PTO-1449 be returned to the undersigned. For convenience, Applicants submit herewith courtesy copies of the Transmittal of Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and PTO-1449 Form as originally filed on May 31, 2001.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the
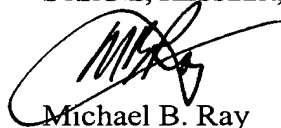
outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Michael B. Ray
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 33,997

Date: _____4/14/04_____

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

226350v1